

1 47. (**Amended Herein - Twice Amended**) A method for permanent

2 decorative enhancement of a polyethylene surface of a molded polyethylene article,

3 which method comprises the steps of:

4 (a) incorporating a decorative enhancement composition to said

5 polyethylene surface wherein said decorative enhancement

6 composition consists essentially of:

7 (1) a liquid carrier that provides the decorative enhancement

8 composition with a consistency and viscosity necessary for

9 application by liquid methods of application; and

10 (2) a first mixture consisting essentially of:

11 (A) a colorant to impart a surface color; and

12 (B) a second mixture consisting essentially of:

13 (i) a binder to provide adhesion of the decorative

14 enhancement composition to said polyethylene

15 surface; and

16 (ii) a particulate thermoplastic powder that is adapted

17 to fuse into and form a permanent bond of the

18 decorative enhancement composition as a

19 whole with the molded polyethylene article; and

20 (b) heating said decorative enhancement composition and said molded

21 polyethylene article to produce a molded polyethylene article

22 having a permanent decoratively enhanced surface characterized

23 by a colorant on and in said polyethylene surface of said molded

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24 polyethylene article.

1 48. The method of Claim 47 wherein said molded polyethylene article is a
2 preformed molded polyethylene article.

1 49. The method of Claim 48 wherein said incorporating step is
2 accomplished by applying said decorative enhancement composition to said preformed
3 molded polyethylene article.

1 50. The method of Claim 49 wherein said heating step is accomplished by
2 heating said decorative enhancement composition and said preformed molded
3 polyethylene article to a temperature and for a time sufficient to fuse said decorative
4 enhancement composition to said preformed molded polyethylene article.

1 51. The method of Claim 47 wherein said liquid carrier comprises 20 to 90
2 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

1 52. The method of Claim 47 wherein said first mixture of said colorant,
2 said binder, and said particulate thermoplastic powder collectively comprise 10 to 80
3 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

1 53. The method of Claim 52 wherein said colorant comprises 9 to 50
2 weight percent of said first mixture and said binder and said particulate thermoplastic
3 powder collectively comprises 50 to 91 weight percent of said first mixture.

1 54. The method of Claim 53 wherein said binder comprises 30 to 70

weight percent of said second mixture and is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic waxes, emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin-esters, terpene based resins, and chlorinated polyolefin resins.

55. (Amended) The method of Claim 53 wherein said particulate thermoplastic powder comprises 70 to 30 weight percent of said second mixture and is selected from the group consisting of polyethelene, polypropylene, and ethylene-vinyl acetate co-polymers wherein said powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle size no greater than 140 microns diameter.
